

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of the**  
**Edina Heritage Preservation Board**  
**Edina City Hall – Community Room**  
**Tuesday, January 14, 2014**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**I.     CALL TO ORDER           7:15 P.M.**

**II.    ROLL CALL**

Answering roll call was Chair Moore and Members Mellom, Weber, Sussman, and Birdman. Absent were members Christiaansen, O'Brien, McDermott, Brandt, and Johnson. Staff present was Senior Planner, Joyce Repya.

**III.   APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

Member Mellom moved to approve the meeting agenda. Member Birdman seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion carried.

**IV.    APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES           December 9, 2013**

Member Birdman moved to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2013 meeting. Member Mellom seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion carried.

**V.     COMMUNITY COMMENT – None**

**VI.    REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

**A.     Edina Heritage Landmark Determination of Eligibility (DOE) - Policy Statement**

Planner Repya reminded the board that at their November meeting Consultant Vogel presented a written policy statement reflecting the current HPB position toward properties determined eligible for landmark designation. At that time, there was quite a bit of conversation relative to the policy statement's format. Member O'Brien offered to research the format of other HPB policies and suggest possible changes.

Although Member O'Brien was not in attendance, he did submit a revised policy statement for the board review. When Mr. O'Brien sent the revisions, he explained that the major modification to Mr. Vogel's proposal includes the creation of a heading and a new paragraph #1, which together highlight the HPB policy on issuance of a DOE. The policy would be #12. Determination of Eligibility as Significant Heritage Preservation Resources, and follows the same format as the previous eleven HPB policies found in the Heritage Preservation section of the Comprehensive Plan.

Member Sussman commented that he thought the proposed changes to the DOE policy provided for consistency with the other policies that guide the HPB. He added that the policy clarifies responsibilities the city has embraced toward properties determined eligible for landmark designation; adding that it is good the policy will be in writing rather than simply understood.

Board members agreed with Member Sussman and commented that they appreciated Member O'Brien taking the initiative to ensure that the DOE policy was consistent with the other HPB policies. Member Birdman then moved approval of Policy 12: Determination of Eligibility as Significant Heritage Preservation Resource as proposed. Member Sussman seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion carried.

## **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. Explore the History of Your Home - Committee Report**

Committee Members Moore, Weber and Birdman shared information relative to their most recent meeting pointing out that they would like to propose the creation of an interactive city map where residents could input photos and information for their properties all in one spot. They pointed out that they foresee the process operating much like Wikipedia.

Member Birdman pointed out that potentially this project could be a joint effort with both the HPB and the Edina Historical Society since much of Edina's historic property information is housed at the museum. He added that a great deal of the property information currently exists in the government files, and how to best manipulate the data to meet the community's needs must be determined.

Member Sussman opined that the concept has good application, however he wondered whether the public would respond - that being said, he also noted it would be important to give them a chance.

Discussion then ensued regarding ways they could gauge public interest in the project. The board agreed that interactive sites such as Facebook could garner opinions. Ideas such writing a blog, and a shout-out on city extra were also mentioned. Member Sussman wondered if the student members on the HPB might not have an interest in this project; and Member Moore suggested contacting Edina High School reunion web sites to garner interest.

Member Sussman questioned if there might not be a similar project currently underway that we could learn from. The board agreed that it would make sense to do some research to see if there are any models out there that could be replicated. Member Sussman wondered if a high school class might find such research interesting.

Member Birdman pointed out that there have been some really good ideas discussed, however execution is the key element for good ideas. Looking to the future, Mr. Birdman suggested having tangible tasks and a time frame established by the March meeting. The board agreed that was an excellent idea. No formal action was taken.

#### **B. Wooddale Bridge - Potential National Register Designation**

Planner Repya reported that the Wooddale Bridge (in front of St. Stephen's Church) has been accepted for a National Register Nomination Study under the supervision of MnDOT CRU. The City's engineering department received confirmation from Lisa Karlgaard with LHB, Inc., where she explained that Greg Mathis, Sr. Preservation Planner & Architectural Historian with I06 Group will be a sub consultant for the study. Ms. Karlgaard explained in her letter that the MnDOT CRU office suggests that the National Register listing be completed prior to the city pursuing the local designation of the bridge. That being the case, the local heritage landmark designation of Wooddale Bridge which is part of the HPB 2014 work plan will probably occur later in the year.

Member Sussman advised the board that he had done some research on both the Browndale Bridge and the Wooddale Bridge and discovered some Minneapolis newspaper articles from 1907 which refute the 1937 *Country Club Crier* account of the calamity of 1907 when both bridges washed away. Mr. Sussman shared the article/photographs with Planner Repya who has since forwarded them on to Greg Mathis, from the I06 Group who as previously mentioned, will be writing the National Register designation study. Board members thanked Member Sussman for his diligence and agreed that they looked forward to learning more about the Wooddale Bridge.

#### **C. HPB Notebooks - Update Ordinances**

Board members received updates for their HPB notebooks with instructions as to where to insert the information. The information included updated city codes as well as data referencing the board's actions over the past year. Planner Repya explained that she will periodically provide updated information for the notebooks to ensure that the data is current and continues to be a relevant resource for board members.

### **VIII. CORRESPONDENCE & PETITIONS - None**

### **IX. CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Member Sussman** shared the following:

- He announced for the record that Member Christiaansen had a healthy baby boy, Frederick (Freddie). The board agreed to extend their best wishes to Ms. Christiaansen and her family.

- He attended the recent Edina Historical Society meeting where members of the Oliver Kelley Grange (OKG) were introduced. The OKG will hold their monthly meetings in our Minnehaha Grange Hall, and in return, they will provide interpretative services for Edina. These people are very skilled - providing interpretations for the Minnesota Historical Society at the Mill City Museum; and this collaboration is a wonderful opportunity for Edina.

**X. STAFF COMMENTS**

**Planner Repya** reported that the annual state preservation conference which is held in September each year is taking on a different twist this year. St. Paul is honored to host the American Association for State and Local History annual conference on September 17-20, 2014. Having at least one board member attend this conference will serve Edina's Certified Local Government (CLG) requirements. Ms. Repya added that as with the state conference, scholarships will be available to assist in the registration fees, and she would provide more detailed information in the future.

**XI. NEXT MEETING DATE                      February 11, 2014**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT                                      8:40 p.m.**

Member Birdman moved for adjournment at 8:40 p.m. Member Mellom seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion carried.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
*Joyce Repya*